

OPPOSE Senate Bill 1148 – An Act Authorizing Certain Hunting and Killing of Black Bear....

To Members of the Environment Committee:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 1138. I see black bears in my yard and neighborhood occasionally. In the fall they check for mast under our oak trees, and in the summer will sometimes get a drink or take a dip in our backyard water garden, especially when it's hot. Then they retreat to the woods and are on their way. If I should happen to encounter one, it runs away or climbs a tree.

In short, our neighborhood has learned to co-exist with them and most residents enjoy the occasional sighting. Any "bear problem" in CT is largely due to inappropriate behavior by humans, not the bears' behavior. For those few bears that are truly problem bears, current state statute allows for the killing of those bears if there's a public health or safety threat.

I grew up in Maine, in a family of hunters, and enjoyed my share of venison and game birds growing up. My brother once "harvested" a young bear while hunting deep in the woods. I still remember how small (and sad-looking) that bear was; the image has stuck with me for fifty years. I've since learned a great deal about these animals, including how intelligent they are and what remarkable animals they are physiologically. Allowing a trophy hunt of such a charismatic, intelligent animal is inhumane, and, in my opinion, immoral. Connecticut is better than this.

Please reject this bill.

Paula Jones
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